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THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWS LETTER

VOLUME 6 **** NUMBER 6
 **

 JUNE 1988

EDITED BY: DICK WAGNER
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V/CHAIRMAN: BILL DUNLOP
SECRETARY: JACK ARMSTRONG
TREASURER: ROD GOWEN
PR OFFICER: BOB EVANS
LIBRARIAN: GAYLEN BENCH

MEETING

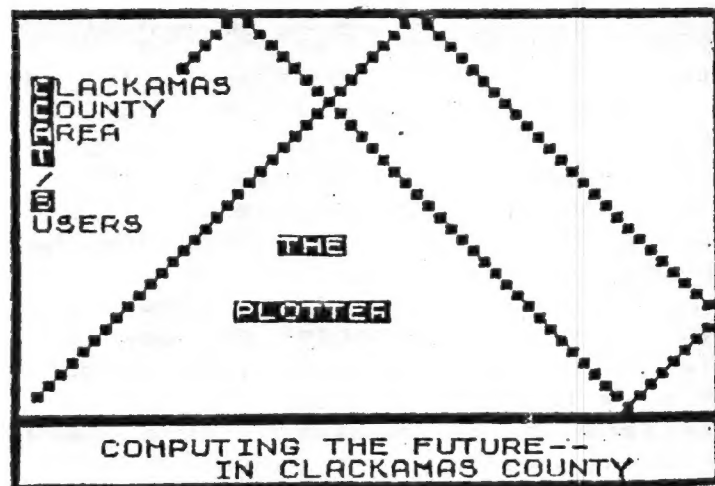
The JUNE meeting will be:

on: FRI., JUNE 10 1988

meeting room open at: 7:30 P.M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM
FAR WEST FEDERAL S & L
OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

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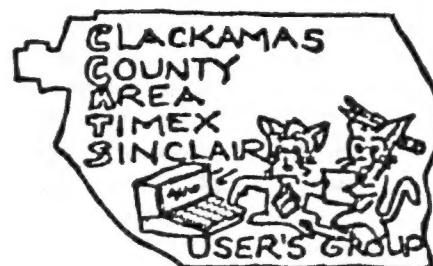
SOAP BOX

We'll start up this month's column with a few quotes sure to raise the hackles of all Sinclair die-hards --

"Sir Clive Sinclair, a bona fide knight, honored for brilliant inventions. Which, exactly? An early pocket calculator quickly bested in every world market. A miniature TV before its time and price point. The ZX80 and ZX81 (a.k.a. Timex 1000), two cheesy toy computers with horrendous keyboards and wacko BASIC. An electric car that seems to have crashed into the laws of physics." (Source PC Magazine, April 12, 1988, pg 85 -- Stephen Manes column entitled "The Z88 Sir Clive's Latest Pipe Dream".)

I guess one should expect such lambastings from an IBM-Snobbist! Unfortunately, he is also Anti-British. He headed his column with, "Too bad it comes from England loaded with English eccentricities." It's a shame that such chauvinism abounds. [Note: Chauvinism comes from Nicholas Chauvin, a soldier of excessive patriotism and devotion to Napoleon.] Stephen's biggest com-

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plaints were formed around the ideas that if it isn't IBM compatible and it comes from England it must be silly and a pile of junk. Everyone knows that Big Blue ain't perfect, but since they formed the ipso-facto standards must they therefore be perfect?????

As we all know, it is impossible to bring such biggots to see the light, but if you would like to give him a lecture or two, forward your letters to PC Magazine, One Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016.

I will drop-kick the foul taste left by such blitherings with -- Sinclair BASIC is wacky, because it is SUPERIOR to MS-BASIC!!!!!!!

So long Syd, Justin and Matt!!! We'll all miss you. Syd was presented with a good-bye Sheri's-Roast after Friday night's meeting. I would like to thank Syd's wife, Kathy, for allowing him this one last indulgence, it was appreciated by all! We wish them well with their new lives in La-La Land.

I hope that some of our fears about telecommunications have been abated. The trick to learning the ropes is -- Practice. If you have further questions, feel free to bring them to the meetings, as we still have plenty to learn. Hope to see you on RMG's BBS.

I would like to close with a sobering thought. We all know how frustrating a small bug or glitch in a program can be, especially if it is in commercial software. Imagine going to your doctor for some radiation-therapy. Instead of receiving a safe dose of radiation, the machine releases over 100 times the typical dosage. Well this has happened on at least 3 occasions, killing 2 patients and severely burning the third. The culprit, a minor error in the machine's program which only appeared when the technician used an unusual combination of keystrokes. (Source: Science News, March 12, 1988 pp 170-71.)

Oh yes, one more thing. Just in case his name wasn't mentioned elsewhere in this issue. . . D. S., we missed you last month and we expect a full report upon your return.

Sinclairly -- Michael E. Carver

SECRETARY'S

SECRETS

by Jack Armstrong

Mike Carver called the May meeting to order at 7:50. Syd moved that the minutes be approved; they were so approved. Rod noted that the minutes were, in part, a vehicle to inform absent members and other subscribers of the events occurring at the meetings and should not be limited in volume for the Plotter. Rod also reported on the progress of the Banner for the Great NW International Mini-Fair. It was displayed and favorable comments were made. When finished it will also have representations of the various Sinclair-based computers as well as the Club logo. The Club buttons were mentioned and Rod displayed a sample. Members are urged to wear them; especially at Fair events. Rod also announced that he is now a dealer for the Z88 from Sinclair Systems. He also noted that there will be several dealers of the Z88 in attendance at the Fair. Tim related a contact from an individual in California seeking a QL or a Z88. He will attend the Fair. Rod has had 6 inquiries from Chicago; Ken Lutes has had a contact from Maryland. It is assumed that most will be coming to the Fair. Rod said that the Vancouver Club has reserved a table by that reserved by Jack Dohany of Fair Ware/ShareWare fame. During Mike's announcement of Syd's departure for Sunny Southern California and a new job, it was brought out that Syd had a replacement as Librarian in Gaylen Bench. (This writer wishes to thank Syd for his help and many kindnesses and wish him luck in the future.) We are in debt to Gaylen for his loyal devotion to our Club. Mike brought up the subject of displays at the Fair and asked for a volunteer for coordinating the displays and hands to help. Ed Fry, Mike and Ken will handle a QL display and coordinate the displays. Rod reported that Fred Nachbauer is 90% certain to be one of the speakers and Wilf Rigter and Harvey Taylor will be in attendance. The letter to SNUG was amended and approved. It will be sent, along with the signatures of many members. Rod also noted that a William Wood is interested in publishing nation-

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ally a SNUG Newsletter. A discussion developed regarding SNUG possibilities in that a yearly convention can be quite possible if 5000 members were paying a modest fee through the various clubs generating ample funds to finance a truly national newsletter and a convention with reps from all the clubs across the country. Syd reported on a Kaypro group from Bend that started a newsletter that has become the unofficial organ for Kaypro users. Mike called for a volunteer to fill out a questionnaire from TimeDesigns Magazine. Rod took the responsibility. The meeting was turned over to Duane Hewitt who demonstrated his modem and contacted Rod's BBS to illustrate the procedures involved. He gave a thorough talk and demo making many things clear for attendees. Duane also announced that he will give a talk and probably a demonstration on pocket radio/Ham radio use and the possible applications with computers sometime in the near future. The meeting came to a close at 9:30 when most of the attendees repaired to a nearby restaurant to say goodbye to Syd. We all wish him luck and he has promised to stay in touch.

BITS & BYTES

by: ROD GOWEN

Heard any TS related news lately? Did you get any information in the mail from other users, user groups, or vendors that may be of interest to our readers? If so, why not share it with us? We need all of the help that we can get. Please send any info that you might have to: Rod Gowen, C/O CCAT/S, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, or, phone in at: 503/655-7484, 10 AM- 10 PM weekdays. I know that the entire user group will appreciate it!

HOW MUCH?!?!?-are those RAM chips that you will need to populate the new 1/4 megabyte ramdisk from Larken Electronics? At our last check, the best price we could find was in the \$17 per chip neighborhood. We don't know where the price is going to stop, but it will more than likely go up before it drops again. We can chalk this one up as another blow by "Reagonomics", I guess.

AERCO-has announced to us that the cost of upgrading your FD-68 I/F to the full 256K (if you have not done so already) will be \$125 for a while. If the price of the chips goes up more, so will that price. Just think, you could have had it done for \$50 just 6 months ago!

LARKEN ELECTRONICS-has not yet completed work on the SEQUENTIAL FILING DISK. We do not know when it will be ready, but you can be sure that RMG will be carrying it as soon as it is released. Keep watching here for more news on all Larken developments.

SANDY-of England, has announced the release of the MEGABOARD for the QL. This will make ALL other I/Fs obsolete! It will incorporate the following: 1 MBYTE RAM-FLOPPY DISK I/F-HARD DISK I/F-PARALLEL PRINTER PORT-64K ROM-RAMDISKS-PRINT SPOOLER-TOOLKIT II-SPEEDSCREEN AND MORE! All of this at a price to be around \$650 in the U.S.. Check with your favorite QL dealer for availability.

ABC ELECTRONICS-in England also announced several new and exciting products for the QL. They have three new memory boards for the QL. They will have a 1,2 and 3 Megabyte version for those who want it. There was no pricing available at the time of this writing. The also announced what we think is a GREAT NEW ADDITION to any QL: a keyboard I/F that plugs into the eprom cart port and allows you to use ANY STANDARD PC/XT KEYBOARD on your QL. It still leaves a port for an eprom as well. It had a price of \$45 sterling, which would be about \$80 U.S.. We think that this will do more for you than the Schon keyboard did. It also adds the functions for all of those extra keys on the PC keyboard. One example: the F8-F10 keys on the PC keyboard become SHIFTED F1-F5 for QL users. Again, check with your favorite QL dealer for these and other new products.

RMG ENTERPRISES-announced that they have added over 100 new products to their already large line. New lines of printers: SEIKOSHA-PANASONIC-CITIZEN-ALPS-ALPHAPRO-OKIDATA and STAR. They also carry PACKARD BELL

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MONITORS AND MODEMS. Other modems added are the SMARTTEAM-SMART ONE-ZUCKERBOARD and ZOOM. These are in addition to the AVATEX that they already carried. If you would like more info and a packet with prices and spec sheets on these new lines, just send a large (9x12) S.A.S.E. with at least \$.50 postage to:

RMG ENTERPRISES
1419 1/2 7TH STREET
OREGON CITY, OR 97045

MINIFAIR NEWS-is limited this month. We have added the LAS VEGAS UG as a non-attending group with 1/2 table. We have not heard whether or not FRED NACHBAUR will be coming. It seems that he is a bit shy. We do hope that he does, as his many fans REALLY want to meet him! We have not gotten confirmation, but we are assuming that WILF RIGTER and HARVER TAYLOR will be in attendance. The VANCOUVER, B.C. UG has taken 1 table and will have about 15-20 members in attendance. Hope that ALL of you can be here as well! SEE YA THERE!!

We'll be back next time! TAKE CARE!

LARKEN LINES

by: ROD GOWEN

Here we are with the latest news from the world of LKDOS.

I spoke with Larry Kenny on May 22, and he answered a few questions for us that have been brought to my attention by many users. I will try to relay the answers so that more folks can be in on them.

These are the most often asked questions:

QUESTION: Why did Larken decide not to include the FORMAT and MOVE commands in the DOS Eprom and put in EXBasic instead?

ANSWER: "I looked at MS-DOS and other "BIG" computer operating systems and found that they all are set up with a FORMAT and COPY program on disk and not resident. I figured that this was the best way to go and it would leave the space free for the extra commands

that I had in mind for the system. I could possibly have put the MOVE command in the eprom, but decided against it in favor of the other commands. I had one other thing in mind, the various systems and making mine compatible with all of them would have been 10 times more difficult if not impossible if I had tried to incorporate it in the eprom. I recommend that the user take that box of 10 or 15 disks that they buy and immediately sit down and LOAD FORMAT and proceed to do all of them at once and then not have to do it again until the next box. I might also point out that if you look REAL close at LKDOS and compare it to the Oliger DOS, you will find that I did in 4K what John Oliger took 8K to do and he STILL has an incomplete DOS!"

QUESTION: When will the new SEQUENTIAL FILING DISK be ready?

ANSWER: "To tell the truth, we are in the middle of planting season on the farm and I have not had much time to work on it. I do not want to make any promises that I cannot keep. I will let you know the moment I get it finished."

QUESTION: Do you have anything new in the works?

ANSWER: "Not much. Just trying to get caught up with what I have going now. I may, possibly, at some future date, re-do the Aerco cartridge eprom to get rid of the "bug" that is in that eprom. It does not currently allow one to save anything to the buffer and then bring it back. I may try to fix it and if I do, I will recall all known owners and let them get an upgrade."

That is all for now. I will keep you posted as I get more news from Larry.

On another subject, BYTE POWER Magazine has released a Disk Utility System for the Larken system. RMG has become a dealer for BYTE POWER products and now has these in stock. One word of WARNING! Be aware that if you buy this product you CANNOT make a working backup of this disk! It is

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unbreakable and NMI proof! Do not despair! RMG said that they have found a way to make working backups and will furnish 1 extra copy of the disk to all who purchase it from them. BYTE POWER has set a "suggested" retail price of \$29.95+2ph on this disk. RMG has a price of \$22.50+2.50ph on it WITH the extra disk. The programs themselves are VERY nice. They could use some changes but on the whole, they work fine.

ALERT!! Be aware that if you use your LKDOS system with an A&J printer I/F, you must REMOVE the A&J I/F before you can SAVE to cassette. Otherwise, the system will only crash if you try to do it without removing it. No fix for this problem is expected.

STILL THE BEST!!>>LKDOS!!!

*D & *E COMPILATION BUG

TIMEMACHINE compiler users may be interested in this correction. Apparently it only shows up when compiling large programs and *D & *E are used.

After the program has loaded (while the backup prompt is still on the screen), break into the program by deleting the left quote and entering STOP (SYMBOL SHIPT A).

Add the following lines to BASIC

TS 2068 VERSION

```
20 FOR i = 1 to 4
21 READ address, n
22 FOR j = 0 to n-1
23 READ byte: POKE address+j, byte
24 NEXT j: NEXT i
```

```
100 DATA 26843,4
101 DATA 205,0,130,0
102 DATA 32070,4
103 DATA 205,0,130,0
104 DATA 32858,4
105 DATA 205,71,104,0
106 DATA 33280,12
107 DATA 17,0,0,205,71,104,192,237,
    91,241,68,201
```

Now, GOTO 8000 and ENTER to make a new backup copy.

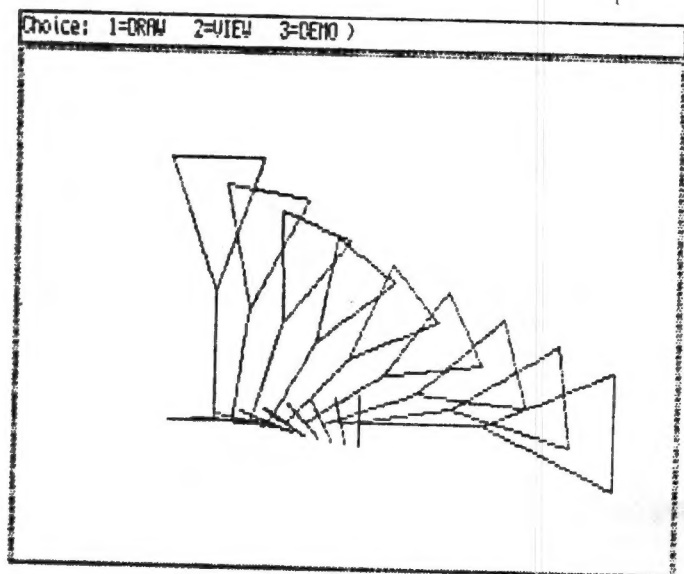
SPECTRUM VERSION

Change lines 100-107 as follows

```
100 DATA 23952,4
101 DATA 205,241,133,0
102 DATA 29145,4
103 DATA 205,241,133,0
104 DATA 29906,4
105 DATA 205,247,92,0
106 DATA 34288,12
107 DATA 17,0,0,205,247,92,192,237,
    91,241,68,201
```

IN-BETWEEN

by: James Edwards



Taken from the book understanding Computer Graphics. The program was written for several computers, not the QL. Do to the QL capabilities, I added the scale command and 3 demos.

To use the program is fairly easy. The main menu gives three option, 1= DRAW, 2=VIEW, 3=DEMO. To use view you must choose 1 or 3 first. Once you choosen and viewed a drawing you can review the drawing by choosing view.

DRAW: Allows you to draw two picture using 7 lines each. If you want to draw a more complicated drawing change 7 in line 20 to any number you want. When you choose this option a tiny dot will appear. Move it to the position you want the shape to start using the arrow keys or a joytick, and

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press the space bar or fire button.
Move to the next position and press
the space bar or fire button to draw a
line. Continue doing this to make your
drawing. When finished, you will make
your second drawing. Now choose view.

VIEW: Allows two ink colors, PES? >;f
scale, and how many in-betweens. You
are in mode 4, your colors are 2,4,7,0
. Scale start at 100 and go up. For in
between start with 8 or 10. You can go
up or down.

```
5 MODE 4: WINDOW 512,256,0,0: PAPER 0:
  INK 7:CLS
6 c1=7:c2=7
10 WINDOW 420,200,40,26: PAPER 0: INK
  7:CLS: BORDER 2,7,0,3
15 OPEN#5;CON_420X13A40X13: PAPER#5;0
  : INK#5;4:CLS#5: BORDER#5;1,7
20 l=7
30 w1=132
40 h1=100
50 cx=w1/2
60 cY=h1/2
70 mx=w1/100
80 my=h1/100
90 DIM xx(1,2):DIM yy(1,2):GO TO 140
100 CLS
110 GO SUB 760
140 INPUT#5;"Choice: 1=DRAW 2=VIE
  W 3=DEMO >;d$
150 CLS
160 LET x=0
170 y=cY
180 POINT x,y:xa=x:ya=y
190 IF d$="1" THEN GO SUB 220
200 IF d$="2" THEN GO SUB 760:GO SUB
  480
205 IF d$="3" THEN GO SUB 900
210 GO TO 120
220 SCALE 100,0,0:FOR j=1 TO 2
230 i=1:v=0:w=0:z=1
240 CLS
250 GO SUB 690
260 q=CODE(INKEY$(-1))
270 IF q=208 THEN w=my
280 IF q=216 THEN w=-my
290 IF q=192 THEN v=-mx
300 IF q=200 THEN v=mx
310 INK c1
320 x=x+v
330 y=y+w
340 IF x<0 THEN x=0
350 IF y<0 THEN y=0
360 IF x>w1 THEN x=w1
370 IF y>h1 THEN y=h1
380 OVER -1:POINT xa,ya:OVER 0:POINT
  x,y:xa=x:ya=y
390 IF q=32 THEN GO SUB 640:IF z=1 T
  HEN x=xa:z=0
```

```
420 POINT x,y
430 v=0
440 w=0
450 IF i<1+1 THEN GO TO 260
460 END FOR j
470 RETURN
480 INPUT#5;"HOW MANY IN-BETWEEN SHA
  PES? >;f
490 FOR z=0 TO f
500 CLS#5:PRINT#5;"FRAME NO. ";z+1
505 FOR i=2 TO 1
510 xa=(xx(i-1,1)*(f-z)+xx(i-1,2)*z)/f
520 ya=(yy(i-1,1)*(f-z)+yy(i-1,2)*z)/f
550 x=(xx(i,1)*(f-z)+xx(i,2)*z)/f
560 y=(yy(i,1)*(f-z)+yy(i,2)*z)/f
570 INK c1
580 IF z<1 OR z>f-1 THEN INK c2
590 LINE xa,ya TO x,y
600 END FOR i
620 END FOR z
630 RETURN
640 xx(i,j)=x
650 IF i=1 THEN POINT x,y:x=x+mx
660 yy(i,j)=y
670 IF i>1 THEN LINE xx(i-1,j),yy(i-1
  ,j) TO xx(i,j),yy(i,j)
680 i=i+1
690 CLS#5:PRINT#5;"SHAPE ";j;" : POINT
  S LEFT ";1+1-1
700 RETURN
760 INPUT#5;"FIRST INK COLOR >;c1
780 INPUT#5;"SECOND INK COLOR >;c2
800 INPUT#5;"SCALE (MIN. 100) >;s1
805 IF s1<100 THEN GO TO 800
810 SCALE s1,0,0
820 RETURN
900 INPUT#5;"DEMO (1-3) >;dm$
905 IF dm$="1" THEN RESTORE 960
910 IF dm$="2" THEN RESTORE 965
915 IF dm$="3" THEN RESTORE 970
920 BEEP 3000,10
940 FOR k=1 TO 7
945 READ r,s,t,u
950 xx(k,1)=r:xx(k,2)=s:yy(k,1)=t:yy(k
  ,2)=u
955 END FOR k
960 DATA 9.24,96.36,77,33,10.56,108.24
  ,96,48,34.32,117.48,96,32,34.32,130.68
  ,72,24
961 DATA 9.24,117.48,77,11,9.24,100.32
  ,77,1,9.24,96.36,77,33
965 DATA 39.6,93.72,54,28,30.36,120.12
  ,80,39,48.84,120.12,80,16,39.6,93.72,5
  4,28
966 DATA 39.6,68.64,28,28,30.36,68.64,
  28,34,47.52,68.64,28,23
970 DATA 26.4,91.08,50,9,26.4,91.08,7
  ,32,33,129.36,73,32,33,129.36,50,9
971 DATA 26.4,91.08,50,9,26.4,91.08,50
  ,9,26.4,91.08,50,9
995 BEEP 2000,30
999 RETURN
```

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I suppose most of our readers have tried that test of skills, The Tower Of Hanoi, probably back in the ZX 81, TS 1000-1500 period. As I recall at times I moved properly from each of the 3 towers, always keeping the smallest rings on top and seemingly did it in the least number of moves. There is a formula for the least number of moves, moves = 2^n where "n" is the number of rings on tower #1.

If the board is set up for 8 rings the number of least moves is 256. Assuming 6 moves per minute it would take 42+ minutes to complete the game. If you tried a more difficult combination of 10 rings then 1024 moves would be required and would require 4 times longer or almost 3 hours!

I have a Beta Basic program (Emulated Sinclair 2068) that prints lines of 3 correct moves per line for any number of rings. If a reader wishes the correct moves just send a SASE envelope and I will return a print-out (2040) of an 8-ring game. For less than 8 rings just calculate on your computer the number of moves and use the first set of moves corresponding to your number of rings. Of course, a bad move will upset this least number.

One of the nicest Tower Of Hanoi games is from 1st Byte Power Magazine. Others have appeared in various magazines and newsletter, as well as in some game books.

I'm sure sorry to have missed the May meeting as a lot went on according to the Minutes. We will miss Syd Wyncoop and his explanations of programming, machine and Basic. Maybe another shining light will show up. And of course the 2 young Wyncoops will be missed along with their game skills.

Rod Gowen, RMG Enterprises, has done a wonderful job of putting together our coming show. I know Tim Woods of TD magazine is right in there too.

They have carried the weight of organizing the whole thing. So far, no CCAT/s member has failed to volunteer when needed. The activity will become more demanding as the opening day gets near. Perhaps we should forgo our usual JULY-AUGUST meeting and have one in August. Coordination and cooperation would seem to be improved by having an August meeting. Lets talk it over at the coming meeting.

This issue will carry a special message to user groups we exchange with. This is an opportunity for them to increase their newsletter subscriber base by sending to us copies of their newsletters that can be distributed free. We will have a special table for this purpose.

Ever since I changed a single 5 1/4 drive for 2, still using the original power supply, I have had problems in making SAVes, FORMATTING, etc. Based on Rod's recommendation, I added another power supply with more current capacity. Now no problems plus reduced heat both from the power supply and the drives remain at a comfortable temperature. If any of our readers have had a heating problem then I recommend a more powerful power supply. The next step is to make a 4 wire cable extension so the power supply can be remote to the drives. I found some parts at an electronics surplus store to make matching plug ins.

I believe there is an error in the Secretary's minutes. Near the end he mentions a discussion of pocket radio/Ham radio. From what I have read on the subject it should be packet radio. This is similar to a telephone modem in results but uses radio communication. If you think modem use is complicated you would be surprised at how deep those Ham operators get into it. The use of 2-meter operation requires repeater stations that must be addressed, on and on and on!

While I have not seen anything on the subject it may be possible to communicate between computers to

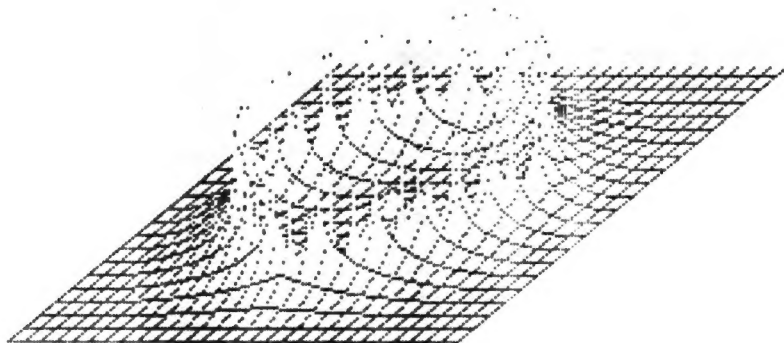
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some extent via FM radio. Maybe a cassette player at a distance loading into a computer by a simple FM transmitter. Or using a pair of LINE-CARRIER modems between computers as in a building where the 120 volt AC wires carry the signals. The July 1988 issue of Radio -Electronics magazine has a construction article on this subject (continued August issue). As I recall when installing a remote light control system in my home, signals sometimes cannot be sent and received at all outlets because of divided power systems derived from the 3 wire 240 volt supply to the control box. The fix was some high voltage capacitors of about .01 mf across the uncommon voltage wires. I never had to use this.

To show that we do get national spread on our computer fair the latest SyncWare News (Mar. Apr.) carries a 6 paragraph report on this show. I give the editor credit for not asking where Portland Oregon is nor what the CCAT/S user group amounts to.

A PEBBLE IN A POND?



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